

## Andrew Jackson to Samuel Houston, October 23, 1826, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

Hermitage, October 23, 1826.

Sir, You are aware that I never have paid any attention to the slanders or falshoods propagated against me by the hired minions of the Govt. But when members of the cabinet become the assailants, the respectable stations which they occupy, forbid the idea that their animadversion will be attributed to the same corrupt source, and it then becomes necessary for the individual who may be the subject of it, to notice the cause, and as far as possible prevent the injury designed to be produced by it. This observation is prompted by some information recently conveyed to me thro a very respectable channel, from which it appears that the Sec of the Navy has been instrumental to the circulation of a fabrication calculated to give a wound to my charecter; 1 and as I have hazarded much to acquire and maintain this charecter, however humble it may be, I am unwilling that it should now be assailed by authority so high, without some inquiry into the cause. The facts are these, as given by my informant, who derives his information from my friend Doctor John H. Wallace of Fredricsburgh Va.: that at a public dinner given to the Hon'ble the Secy. of the Navy " *Mr. Southard, while at table remarked to Colo. Gray of Fredricsburgh, did you ever learn that Genl. Jackson on one occasion left the army and was returning home without leave, or orders, when Mr. Monroe, then Secy. of War, sent him a preremptory order, and compelled him to return; and that owing to this circumstance Neworleans was saved?* " No, (replied Col. Gray) where can that fact be had? It would be of importance to us if we could get hold of it." (Mr. Southard said) " *I do not know, but such I am told is the fact* ." This I pronounce a positive falshood: no circumstance like it has ever occurred; so far from it, that from the beginning to the end of the last war, when I had a camp, I never slept

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one night out of it; and I there fore request you to call upon Mr. Southard, and demand of him in my name in writing, from whom he obtained this information so prejudical to truth, and to my charecter, as I am determined to put a stop to this system of falshood contrived, and circulated for effect, whenever I can trace it to the Departments of the Executive Government.

1 For later letters on the subject see vol. III., pp. 329, 332, 341–348.

You will please communicate the answer of Mr. Southard to me, as soon as you have the interview with him, which I hope will be, as soon as you reach the City of Washington. Make a copy of this and preserve it, presenting this original to Mr. Southard; say to him from me, that from the high and honourable station he fills I expect a prompt, and categorical answer from him.

I am Sir with great respect your friend